

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248085

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, BTRA, YS, YE, EG, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SHELL OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES TO
ADEN

1. SHELL OIL COMPANY ADVISED DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 5 THAT
THREE SHELL REPRESENTATIVES PLAN TO VISIT ADEN APPROXIMATELY
DECEMBER 8-10 FOR DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE OIL EXPLORATION
PROGRAM IN PDRY.

2. ACCORDING TO SHELL, GENESIS OF THIS VISIT WAS A CONVER-
SATION BETWEEN SHELL (THOMAS CATE, CONTRACT REPRESENTATIVE/
INTERNATIONAL VENTURES) AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
EGYPTIAN GENERAL PETROLEUM COMPANY IN MAY; EGYPTIAN
REPRESENTATIVE ASKED CATE IF SHELL HAD EVER CONSIDERED
GOING INTO PDRY. SHELL REP SAID NO, BUT AGREED IT MIGHT
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BE WORTH LOOKING INTO. AFTER DISCUSSION WITHIN COMPANY,

PARTICULARLY ON QUESTION OF WHETHER 1969 PDRY NATIONALIZATION OF ROYAL DUTCH SHELL PROPERTIES IN ADEN WOULD PRECLUDE ANY SHELL ENTITY FROM OPERATING THERE, COMPANY DECIDED TO PROBE FURTHER WITH PDRY. CATE CONTACTED PDRY UN AMBASSADOR ASHTAL, TO SAY SHELL INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY ENTERING INTO EXPLORATION AGREEMENT, AND SOUGHT PDRY REACTION. ASHTAL'S REACTION WAS COOL BUT HE PROMISED TO COMMUNICATE SHELL'S INTEREST TO ADEN. A FEW WEEKS AFTER

THIS INITIAL EXCHANGE, ASHTAL CONTACTED CATE AND SAID WITH NOTICEABLE WARMTH THAT PDRY WOULD WELCOME A SHELL VISIT TO DISCUSS EXPLORATION. ASHTAL SENT CATE VISA FORMS AND ADVISED THAT HE WORK THROUGH PDRY UN MISSION ON ARRANGEMENTS; SHELL HAS DONE SO, AND TENTATIVE EARLY DECEMBER DATES HAVE BEEN AGREED ON. CATE AND TWO GEOLOGISTS WILL MAKE THE TRIP.

3. WE HAVE BRIEFED CATE IN GENERAL TERMS ON POLICY TOWARD PDRY, INDICATING THAT WE STAND READY TO IMPROVE OUR TIES WHENEVER PDRY DESIRES TO DO SO. WE FURTHER POINTED TO LACK ANY CONSULAR FACILITIES IN ADEN, AND HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY NATURE PDRY RESPONSE TO CONSULAR PROBLEMS INVOLVING AMERICANS; WE BALANCED THIS BY DESCRIBING FINDLEY RECEPTION IN ADEN AS EXAMPLE OF HOW HOSPITABLE PDRY CAN BE WHEN IT WANTS TO, AND SUGGESTED THAT IF PDRY WANTS SHELL VISIT GROUP WILL PROBABLY HAVE NO PROBLEMS AS LONG AS IT STICKS TO ITS BUSINESS. CATE CLEARLY APPRECIATES POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES, AND IS DETERMINED TO KEEP GROUP'S ACTIVITIES AND EXCHANGES WITH PDRY REPS ON A PURELY TECHNICAL LEVEL.

4. GROUP WILL SPEND A FEW DAYS IN LONDON PRIOR TO PDRY TRIP TO RESEARCH OIL GEOLOGY MATERIAL IN OXFORD LIBRARY. WE ENCOURAGED THEM TO CONTACT EMBASSY LONDON (LAMBRAKIS) SHOULD THEY WISH DISCUSS UK VIEW OF ADEN SITUATION. KISSINGER

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